

Military and Family Support Center promotes Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Story and photo by
MC2 Daniel Barker

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West
Detachment Hawaii

Rear Adm. Dixon R. Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific signed a proclamation designating October 2011 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month at a ceremony held in the rotunda of the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange Sept. 29.

Now, hundreds of service members and others are adding their signatures, too. The proclamation states, “I pledge to take action against domestic violence by choosing not to remain silent. Instead I will speak up for those in my neighborhood, family, work or school who are victims of abuse. I will educate myself and seek help if Domestic Abuse is occurring in my home. I will not use violence or controlling behavior towards my family and friends. Instead I will create a peaceful and safe environment in my home for my spouse, children and friends. By living this pledge I am joining with others to end violence in my



Service members of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam attend a speech and sign a banner statement against domestic violence in the rotunda of the Navy Exchange. The banner will hang on display in the Navy Exchange to promote awareness of programs and options designed to prevent domestic abuse.

home and community.”

Rear Adm. Smith spoke about the importance of the family advocacy program and its work in helping those in need.

“It is both a privilege and an honor to sign this

pledge,” Smith said. “It is vitally important to assist in preventing domestic abuse incidents.”

The signed proclamation is on display at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange entrance for the month of

October and members of the community are invited to add their signatures.

“This year we have the community involved,” explained Rachael Vaphides, a victim advocate with the Military and

Family Support Center (MFSC). “This is the first year the pledge was signed and displayed at the NEX, allowing anyone visiting there to sign the pledge and representing a community free from domestic violence.”

During the event, purple wrist bands were given out in support of the domestic violence awareness month. The color purple was chosen as being symbolic of the bruises victims of domestic abuse have endured.

“Even one voice can make a difference against domestic violence,” said Maggie Silva-Purcell, victim advocate coordinator with MFSC. “If you see something, say something. Just realize that you are not alone.” Contacting and speaking with a victim advocate is voluntary, and the number in Hawaii is 474-1999, with no requirement to obtain or receive services. “Department of Defense policy allows confidential support,” explained victims advocate Moniece Barney. “Both restricted and unrestricted reporting is available, and there are many options including counseling, classes, sessions and workshops.”

Events planned throughout October include a self defense demonstration by members of the Federal Police and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service Oct. 20 from 10 to 11 a.m. in front of the MFSC, 4827 Bougainville Drive, Honolulu.

Joint Base prepares for upcoming APEC visits

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Christopher Dunn, the point of contact for all 15th Wing-related Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) operations, briefs a group of U.S. Department of State foreign service liaison officers outside the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam passenger terminal Sept. 28. Some APEC participants will arrive on the flight line here prior to the conference, which will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii, Nov. 11 - 13. APEC is a forum for 21 Pacific Rim economies throughout the Asia-Pacific region, which seek to promote free trade and economic cooperation.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Carolyn Herrick



Air Force dog handlers earn six trophies

Staff Sgt. Carolyn
Herrick

Public Affairs

Two Airmen from the 647th Security Forces Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam participated in the 2011 Hawaiian Islands Working Dog Competition at Schofield Barracks Sept. 25 to 30 and brought home six out of 10 trophies awarded.

Staff sergeants Paul Cruz and Larry Harris and their dogs, Bert and Aron, competed against 17 other dog-handler teams from other agencies and services. Cruz and Bert won first place in tactical detection and second in combat scout; Harris and Aron won first in handler protection and combat scout, second in the obedience course, and third in non-tactical explosive detection.

“We represented the joint



DoD photo by Master Sgt. Cohen A. Young

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Larry James Harris, a native of Anchorage, Alaska currently assigned to the 647th Security Forces Squadron, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, prepares to let Aron, his military working dog, (MWD) loose to attack an aggressor during the Hardest Hitting Dog Competition.

base pretty well,” Cruz said, who has been a dog handler for six years. “Getting to be with other dog handlers was a lot of fun – we don’t get to do that a lot, especially from other agencies. It was a good learning experience.”

Other agencies involved were the Honolulu Police Department and Soldiers from Army posts around the world including Korea, Japan, Fort Leonard Wood and Fort Sill.

“I love my job. You get to play with dogs all day,” Harris said.

But the play is actually work, in disguise. Harris and Aron, who deployed together to Southwest Asia recently, had two finds on vehicles entering an installation.

“Our primary mission in the Air Force is to go out with Air Force, Army, Marines, etc., to detect explosives or to man (entry

control points) and search cars to make sure no one brings anything they’re not supposed to bring on base,” said Harris, who’s been a handler for only three years and is his 6-year-old dog’s first handler. “It’s a great feeling.”

Cruz and Harris said they had only four days notice that they would be competing in this event – yet they placed higher than most of their comrades. They were already well prepared and needed no extra training in order to be ready, in spite of the fact that the courses were difficult.

“They had us going and finding explosives in a mountain village, and having (opposing forces) shooting at us,” Cruz recounted. “We had to maneuver and perform tactics and find explosives at the same time

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Port Royal Sailors visit UAE
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Maya Soetoro-Ng reads her book to Navy families
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Warrior of the Week: Chief Navy Diver Kevin Chinn
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Screamin' Eagles fully operational
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Volunteers support National Public Lands Day at Halealoha Haleamau
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Former USS Breese Sailor laid to rest at Pearl Harbor
See page B-2

Port Royal Sailors visit UAE

Ensign Emma Mattson

USS PORT ROYAL (CG 73) - Guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73) pulled into Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates (UAE) for a port visit, Sept. 12-16.

For the majority of Port Royal's Sailors, this was their first time visiting the middle-eastern country.

While in port, many Sailors took advantage of tours and sightseeing opportunities arranged by the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) committee.

"I visited the tallest building in the world and ate at the only seven-star hotel in the world," Ensign Brent Hodge said. "The port visit was a once in a lifetime experience."

Other crewmembers spent time volunteering at the American School of Dubai, where they played basketball and Frisbee with the school's students and faculty during a community relations (COMREL) event.



Navy photo by Yeoman 1st Class Keith Barrow

Lt. Cmdr. Matthew Cox, chief engineer aboard guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73) pins lieutenant-commander collar-devices on Lt. Cmdr. Chris Donnelly, the ship's supply officer, Sept. 1, while underway in the Arabian Gulf. Port Royal is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility conducting maritime security operations and missions in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn.

"I believe in being an ambassador for the Navy," Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Namon Richardson said. "COMREL events present a unique opportunity for Sailors to interact with the host nation outside of the traditional roles of the Navy and I do it because I enjoy experiencing differ-

ent cultures and interacting with different walks of life."

Port Royal is conducting maritime security operations and missions in support of operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn while deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

Access control changes effective Oct. 31

Senior Master Sgt. Jessica DellaRosa

PACAF 647 SFS/S5

To maintain safety, security and efficiency, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) is changing access control policies. These changes will primarily affect commercial contractors, sub-contractors, vendors, suppliers and service providers who regularly access the installation.

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam has implemented the Navy Commercial Access Control System (NCACS), which is a voluntary program intended to increase security and streamline installation access for com-

mercial personnel.

Any company that wishes to participate in the program can enroll by calling Eid Passport at 1-877-RAPIDGate.

The NCACS program provides the required background checks and may prove to be a cost and time-saving benefit to companies and individuals conducting business on JBPHH.

NCAS eligible personnel who choose to not participate in the NCACS program may apply for a local pass for installation access that is limited in duration to one day.

RAPIDGate participant benefits include:

- A credential pass will be issued for up to one year;

- Streamlined access will be allowed during the times that you need to perform business on the installation.

Non-RAPIDGate participant (access ID/day pass) restrictions:

- Only one day passes will be issued as of Oct. 31;
- Gold cards will no longer be valid for access as of Oct. 31;
- Longer wait times will occur in the Pass and ID office.

Questions about JBPHH NCACS implementation should be addressed to info@rapidgate.com with the subject line RE: NCACS Program or to the JBPHH Security Department at 448-9829 or 449-9705.

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Maya Soetoro-Ng reads her book to Navy families

Story and photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Commander Navy Region Hawaii
Public Affairs
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

Maya Soetoro-Ng, the maternal half-sister of President Barack Obama, read the children's book she authored, "Ladder to the Moon," to military families at the Parche Memorial Park on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Sept 30.

More than 200 people, including Navy family members and their children, attended the book reading and signing sponsored by the Honolulu Armed Services YMCA.

"I know how important it is that we hear the stories of our children and that we share our stories with them," Soetoro-Ng said. "I hope the book will be used to open up conversations, with your children about the world and how we are all interconnected. We can do so much to help and serve others."



Maya Soetoro-Ng, the maternal half-sister of President Barack Obama, autographs the children's book she authored, "Ladder to the Moon," to military families at the Parche Memorial Park at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Sept. 30.

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Warrior of the Week: Chief Navy Diver Kevin Chinn

Story and photos by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Commander Navy Region
Hawaii Public Affairs

A Navy diver assigned to Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit ONE (MDSU-1) is this week's Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Warrior of the Week, Oct 7.

Chief Navy Diver Kevin Chinn has been in the Navy for more than 11 years. During his service, he has travelled to several locations around the world and has served aboard USS Safeguard (ARS 50) and USS Emory S. Land (AS-39). Chinn was recently promoted to chief petty officer during this year's promotion cycle.

"I made chief because I have great leadership, great peers and great subordinates who I've worked with throughout my career," Chinn said. "My subordinates have always been great. They've worked really hard for me. The leadership has always done what they can to support me, putting me in leadership positions.

I've always worked really well with my peers."

Chinn was one of 29 Navy Divers Navy-wide who advanced to chief petty officer. Chinn said he felt good to make rank as quickly as he did.

"I felt I could use more time as a first class petty officer," Chinn said. "The only reason I say this is because I have a lot of buddies of mine who are E-6s who have a lot more time in the Navy than I do. If it were really up to me I would rather see them make it now, and me waiting a couple of years just because I think it's fair. But life's not fair all the time, and I'm not going to turn down a promotion either."

Born and raised in Oklahoma, Chinn joined the Navy within a month of graduating from high school.

"I just wanted to get out of the rut," said Chinn. "I started working when I was 15 years old. I had different jobs growing up, and I didn't really want to go to college. More than anything, I joined because I was looking for adventure."

During an assignment in Italy, Chinn was part of the team who performed harbor clearance work in Santo Stefano Island north of Sardinia, Italy. According to Chinn, he and his

team extracted more than a million pounds of debris from the harbor floor, successfully clearing the harbor for safe passage.

"There's absolutely nothing cooler than riding down on the stage in a MK-21 in heavy boots on and hit the bottom, and you start walking across the bottom of the ocean picking up and rigging helicopters, airplanes, ships, sail boats, amphibious assault vehicles," Chinn said. "Harbor clearances where you're just walking around with so much stuff you can't even imagine you can get them all out."

Despite Chinn's experiences, he still believes there's still a lot to learn.

"Even as a new chief, I still have a lot of learning to do," Chinn said. "Being a chief is completely different, and I haven't really realized it all yet, but now as a chief we're responsible for mentoring our junior officers, learning his career path. I have to set him up as well as my junior personnel."

"To be a good Navy diver I think that you just need to believe in the camaraderie of the team that you are a part of. The people who don't believe in that are ... Those are the people who are detrimental to this type of system."

Currently, Chinn plans to take the Master Diver written exam.



**CHIEF NAVY DIVER
KEVIN CHINN**

Diverse Views

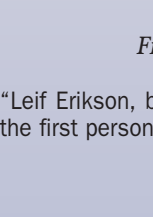


Who do you think is the most significant explorer or discoverer throughout history and why?



Marina Weems,
Gas Turbine Technical Electrician
3rd class

"Columbus. He discovered America ... the land of prosperity."



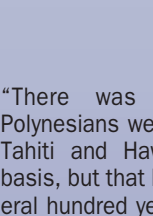
Veronica Sullivan,
Fire Controlman 3rd class

"Leif Erikson, because he was officially the first person to land in America."



Senior Master Sgt. Greg Espinosa
17th Operational Weather Squadron

"Albert Einstein, for his theory of relativity and the mass-energy equivalence equation E=mc²."



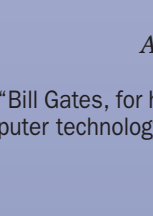
Lt. Alapaki Gomes
DESRON 31

"There was a period when the Polynesians were transiting to and from Tahiti and Hawaii on a fairly regular basis, but that hasn't been done for several hundred years and (the) Polynesian Voyaging Society began the revitalization, really the rediscovering of navigation by traditional means in the mid-seventies."



Cierah Bowser
Air Force family member

"Christopher Columbus, for his discoveries."



Kishmar Davis
Air Force family member

"Bill Gates, for his developments in computer technology."

(Provided by David D. Underwood Jr. and Jazzmin Williams)

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Got opinions to share?

Drop us a line at editor@hookelenews.com or karen.spangler@navy.mil

Got Questions?

Write to us at editor@hookelenews.com

Energy awareness fair and training scheduled for Oct. 13

Krista Stehn

Naval Facilities Engineering
Command Hawaii Energy Program

The Navy Region Hawaii energy team is hosting an energy awareness fair and training Oct. 13.

It will be held at the Ford Island

Conference Center (building 87) at 10 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m.

Attend the event to:

- Discuss energy trade equipment, facility energy auditing, and energy awareness with industry energy professionals;
- Complete annual training requirements

- Take away information and material.

- The event is open to military members, and civilian and contractor personnel.

For more information, call Krista Stehn of the NAVFAC Hawaii Energy Program at 471-0440 or email Krista.stehn@navy.mil.

Dual 'Delta Daggers' slice through the air



Photo courtesy T. Merrill

Two Convair F-102 "Delta Dagger" aircraft belonging to the Hawaii Air National Guard's 199th Fighter Squadron are shown here flying over the Pacific Ocean near Hawaii in the 1960s.



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U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker

The guided-missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59), underway in the Pacific Ocean.

USS Russell arrives in Gan, Maldives

CTF-70 Public Affairs

GAN, Maldives – The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) arrived in Gan, Maldives for a port visit Sept. 28.

The visit to Gan is an opportunity for Russell Sailors to engage with their Maldives National Defense Force (MNDF) counterparts and to interact with the local community.

“We are honored to be here in Gan,” said Cmdr. Joseph Carrigan, Russell’s commanding officer. “The U.S. and the Maldives share a common interest in promoting peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. My crew and I look forward to this experience and fostering a growing relationship with our Maldivian counterparts.”

While in port at Gan,

Russell Sailors will provide guided tours of the ship for media and guests, participate in a soccer match and a culinary exchange where coast guardsmen from the Maldivian Coast Guard Ship (CGS) Shaheed Ali will teach Sailors how to cook traditional Maldivian dishes aboard Russell.

Sailors look forward to enjoying the hospitality, culture, and sights of Gan, and some female Sailors will have the chance to spend time and share tea with 30 local female high school students, teachers and parents.

During the engagement, Sailors will share their experiences and talk about life for women in the U.S. Navy and gain a better understanding of Maldivian life from the students.

Sailors will visit CGS

Shaheed Ali and train alongside MNDF coast guardsmen in small engine and diesel maintenance, preventive maintenance and trouble shooting.

While aboard CGS Shaheed Ali, Sailors will also participate in damage control drills, train on fire-fighting and dewatering to help all the participants gain an understanding of the different techniques used.

Russell’s visit, board, search, and seizure (VBSS) team will have a chance to board a Maldivian government-owned fishing vessel during an exchange with the MNDF coast guardsmen.

Russell is currently on an independent deployment from her homeport of Pearl Harbor, and on patrol in the western Pacific ocean.

ARRA photovoltaic project on PMRF Kauai completed

Thomas Obungen,

NAVFAC Hawaii Public Affairs Specialist

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii completed its final inspection on Sept. 20 of a photovoltaic (PV) system at Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Kauai, which is expected to generate 760 kilowatts (kW) of continuous power during the day when it is fully online.

“This sustainable energy initiative will assist PMRF in its efforts to reduce our use of fossil fuels and ultimately lower our energy costs,” said Capt. Nicholas Mongillo, commanding officer PMRF.

“We are excited to be close to turning on some of our newly installed PV which will move us toward our goal of completely supplying our hotel load needs with alternative energy and to comply with green energy mandates from the Department of Defense and Secretary of the Navy.”

NAVFAC Hawaii awarded SuMo-Nan, an Oahu-based joint venture, a \$6.7 million contract in

December 2009 to design, furnish and install PV systems on building roofs at PMRF. This project is part of the Navy in Hawaii’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) efforts.

Installation began on the Navy Exchange with the concurrent replacement of the building’s roof. A total of 460 thin film PV modules were mounted on new metal roofing panels prior to their placement on the building in July 2010.

The contractor then installed 3,214 polycrystalline PV panels on other PMRF buildings.

An Interconnection Agreement between the Navy and Kauai Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) was signed this month, allowing the new photovoltaic systems to operate in parallel with KIUC.

“When analyzing Fiscal Year 2010 electrical consumption at PMRF Kauai and the capability of the PV buildings that will come online shortly, the base is expected to receive approximately 4.6 percent of its energy needs from the sun,” said Bryan Law, NAVFAC Hawaii renewable energy

program engineer. “When all buildings are placed online, this will increase to 9.4 percent.”

The Department of Defense received \$7.4 billion from the ARRA, which is less than one percent of the \$787 billion total amount. The Navy in Hawaii received \$124 million to modernize Navy and Marine Corps shore infrastructure, enhance America’s energy independence, and sustain a steady and robust Maritime Force for decades.

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus laid out five aggressive energy goals in October 2009 to improve energy security and efficiency, increase energy independence, and help lead the nation toward a clean energy economy. This initiative assists in achieving the energy goal of increasing alternative energy afloat and ashore where by 2020, the Department of the Navy (DON) will produce at least 50 percent of shore-based energy requirements from alternative sources and 50 percent of DON installations will be net-zero.

Confirm your mailing address through federal website to vote via absentee ballot

Lt. Cmdr. Kathleen A. Elkins

Region Voting Officer

Attention fellow voters: now is the time for all personnel to start confirming that their local election official has their correct mailing address so that they can exercise their

right to vote via absentee ballot.

The Federal Post Card Application (SF76) is used for updating mailing addresses. Visit the federal voting website at www.fvap.gov for all of your absentee voting information.

Take a few minutes to complete the post-paid

form, print and sign the form and mail it to your local election official.

A complete listing of addresses can be found at www.fvap.gov; alternatively, your region, command or installation voting officers can assist you in obtaining copies of the form and finding addresses.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam Highlights



(Left) Tech. Sgt. Richard Vasquez, a member of the Air Force Band of the Pacific, admires some of the flags of Hispanic nations on display while attending the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration fiesta at Ward Field on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Sept. 30.

Photo by Don Robbins

(Below) Staff sergeants Paul Cruz and Larry Harris and their dogs, Bert and Aron, competed against 17 other dog-handler teams from other agencies and services in the 2011 Hawaiian Islands Working Dog Competition at Schofield Barracks Sept. 25 to 30 and brought home six out of 10 trophies awarded. Other agencies involved were the Honolulu Police Department and Soldiers from Army posts around the world including Korea, Japan, Fort Leonard Wood, and Fort Sill. Cruz and Bert won first place in tactical detection and second in combat scout; Harris and Aron won first in handler protection and combat scout, second in the obedience course, and third in non-tactical explosive detection.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Carolyn Herrick



DoD photo by Master Sgt. Cohen A. Young

(Above) U.S. Soldiers and Air Force Military Working Dog (MWD) trainers and their dogs gathered at Wheeler Army Air Field, Hawaii on Sept. 29 to compete in the Obedience Course, the Handler Protection/Aggression and Hardest Hitting Dog Competitions. These events are part of the week-long 2011 Hawaiian Island Working Dog Competition which started on Sept. 25 and concludes on Sept. 30.

Col. Sam Barrett, commander, 15th Wing and Lt. Col. Brian Hill, Commander, 96th Air Refueling Squadron stand next to the proclamation they signed awarding the 96th Air Refueling Squadron Screamin' Eagles full operational capability on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on Oct. 4. See next week's Hookele for more information.

Photo by David D. Underwood, Jr.



U.S. Navy photo

Capt. Jeff James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, with Master Sgt. Joanne Vega and Yeoman 2nd Class (SW/AW) Adelaida Sojo, participates in the Hispanic Heritage Month Fiesta at Ward Field Sept. 30.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Maya Soetoro-Ng, the maternal half-sister of President Barack Obama, reads the children's book she authored, "Ladder to the Moon," to military families at the Parche Memorial Park at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Sept. 30. More than 150 people, including family members and their children, attended the event sponsored by the Honolulu Armed Services YMCA.

THAAD initial operational test and evaluation conducted

US Missile Defense Agency

The BMDS Operational Test Agency (OTA) conducted, with support of the Missile Defense Agency, an operational test of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) element of the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) at 1:56 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time on Oct. 5, at the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai, Hawaii.

Soldiers from Alpha Battery, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, under the operational control of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command operated the THAAD system.

The Oct. 5 event was THAAD’s first Operational Test and Evaluation (IOT&E). This was an operational test, with the Army and Department of Defense test and evaluation organizations fully engaged to ensure the execution and results are representative of the fielded system.

During the test, the THAAD system engaged and simultaneously intercepted two short-range ballistic missiles. The U.S.



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency

A Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) interceptor is launched during the system’s first operational test at 1:56 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time Oct. 5 at the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai. The test was conducted by the Ballistic Missile Defense System Operational Test Agency with the support of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency. During the test the THAAD system engaged and simultaneously intercepted two ballistic missile targets.

Army Test and Evaluation Command and the BMDS Operational Test Agency will review data collected from this event to make an operational assessment of

the THAAD system. The director of Operational Test and Evaluation will also independently evaluate the operational effectiveness of the system.

Federal Fire Department will hold prevention week activities

The Federal Fire Department will be hosting the following activities during Fire Prevention Week to promote “It’s Fire Prevention Week. Protect your Family from Fire!”

- 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 12 at Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange
- 4 to 7 p.m. Oct. 13 at Schofield Barracks Kalakaua

Community Center • 4 to 7 p.m. Oct. 14 at Kaneohe Marine Corps Base Mokapu Mall.

Through these educational, family-oriented activities, residents can learn more about the power of prevention and available technologies to protect their own families from fire.

To find out more about Fire Prevention Week pro-

grams and activities in your community, call the Federal Fire Department Fire Inspector Angela Sanders at 471-3303, ext. 617 or angela.sanders1@navy.mil.

To learn more about “It’s Fire Prevention Week. Protect your Family from Fire!” visit the website at www.firepreventionweek.org.

MCPON leads training run



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Kenneth R. Hendrix

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick D. West participates in a physical training run with chief petty officers (CPO) and first class petty officers at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka in Japan Oct. 4. The run is part of the CPO 365, a three-phase training process designed by MCPON West to improve the induction procedures for new chief petty officers. West is in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility visiting Forward Deployed Naval Forces.

MCPON speaks at family readiness symposium

MC1 (SW) Abraham Essenmacher

Office of the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy

WASHINGTON — Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) addressed participants at the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) Family Readiness Symposium Sept. 26, and offered his personal gratitude and appreciation to family members as well as his thoughts on the importance of the program.

“Family readiness is a cornerstone of warfighting readiness and has a direct impact on job satisfaction, job performance and person-

nel retention,” said MCPON (SS/SW) Rick D. West. “A strong family support structure enables Sailors to serve and excel, and reinforces the foundation for success.”

This year’s NECC Family Readiness Symposium’s theme was “Improving Family Readiness: Putting Lessons Learned Into Practice.” The agenda set for the symposium incorporated lessons and best practices over the last 10 years.

“The Navy’s family readiness programs, policies and services continue to evolve to meet the needs of our Sailors and their families,” West said. “I think this is a priority that needs to continue getting a lot of attention as it directly impacts our

Sailors and Fleet readiness.”

The symposium included subjects such as Joint Service Military Spouse Employment Partnership, Family Readiness Group, educational materials, Family Emergency Response Program and clinical counseling.

“The Navy continues to have the most advanced equipment, technology, weapons systems and platforms, but one thing remains the same, the engine that truly drives our Navy and the reason we are the best is because of our people,” West said.

For more news from Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, visit www.navy.mil/local/mcpon/.

Air Force dog handlers earn six trophies

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as well. It was fun.”
For Harris, carrying a 90-pound dog uphill during the obstacle course was challenging, but regular PT with his unit made it doable. The easy part was obedience, since he and Aron practice with Cruz and Bert

nearly every day.
“I thank Sergeant Cruz every time I see him, because I wouldn’t have gotten anything without him,” Harris said. “He and I train together and practice all the time.”
For Cruz, one of the more experienced handlers of the unit, training and mentor-

ing is rewarding because the results are immediate.
“When you see a weak spot, you put dedication into it, and you see results,” he said. “I use my real-world experience to pass to younger handlers coming in.
“There’s no one particular way to train a dog, so I

fall back on my experiences. They’re like a big toolbox to pull out of. I like helping others because the more we do, the safer people are. The competition just validates what we do. We think of it as training, but at the end of the day we are training to save lives.”

My Favorite Photo...

Navy staff member John Burns took this photo of a seabird, called a red-footed booby, while a volunteer at Marine Corps Base Hawaii’s Ulupa’u Crater. The volunteers construct nesting platforms. The name “booby” comes from the Spanish word for clown or “bobo” which is how someone seeing these birds on land would describe their rocking walk, but in the air, they’re anything but awkward.

Photo by John Burns





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KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

- Oct. 13**— Navy Birthday or Fire Prevention Month
Oct. 20 — Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard
Oct. 27 — To be determined
Nov. 3 — Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard
Nov. 10 — Marine Corps Birthday
Nov. 17 — Pearl Harbor Day 70th Anniversary

(The segments currently air between 6:20 and 6:30 a.m. each Thursday. Previous segments can be viewed at <http://www.bit.ly/KHONNavy>)
Got a story for KHON Hawaii Navy News?
Email editor@hookelenews.com or call Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs at 473-2875. Stories must have a Navy tie and be of interest to the general public.

How to submit

My favorite photo...

Do you enjoy taking pictures and have a favorite photo? Would you like to see it featured in Ho’okele? Here is your opportunity. Submissions must be from people affiliated with the military services, including active duty, family members, Reserve, retired and Department of Defense civilians, etc.

Your favorite photo can be just about anything, but keep in mind that it should be in good taste. We aren’t looking for posed family shots or group shots. But if you have a photo that you think is interesting and cre-

ative, here is your chance to see it published.
Photo submissions will be reviewed by Ho’okele editors who will determine if/when they will run in the newspaper. Along with your photo, please send a little bit of information about the photo, such as where it was taken or any interesting details. Also include the name of the photographer and contact information.
Please send your photos to editor@hookelenews.com and “cc” Karen Spangler, managing editor, at karen.spangler@navy.mil and Don Robbins, assistant editor, at drobbins@hookelenews.com.
Brush up on your photography skills. Ready, set, shoot!